

INTERN WALL of FAME



Abby Burkhardt
Senior, Graphic Design

Graphic Design Intern
Hill-Rom, Depew, NY

In summer 2019, senior Abby Burkhardt worked as a graphic designer at Hill-Rom in Depew New York, a durable medical equipment & medical supplies to hospitals and health care facilities. Hill-Rom was founded in 1927 and now provides a variety of services to customers across the United States.

Abby describes her internship, saying, “the most important lesson I learned from my design internship was the importance of hard work and making personal connections.” She explained that in the summer of 2018, the year prior to her design internship, she worked for Hill-Rom’s customer service department doing data entry, and although it was not her dream job, she “worked as hard as [she] could.” She continued, saying that she took this first internship as an “opportunity to introduce myself to the company’s design team and offer help in any way. Because of my hard work and personal connections with the designers, I was placed in the design department when I applied for the summer of 2019.”

Abby is a clear example of a student that got her foot in the door of a company and earned her way to the position that she really wanted and loved. This is in accord with the lessons we teach here at the CDO, that any job is a job you can build from. As Abby said, she started doing a job that was not ideal, but through interactions and networking within the company, she advanced to her dream internship! More specifically, she “took advantage of every opportunity given to [her] and even volunteered for projects [she] wasn’t originally considered for.” Over time, she built a reputation as a “hard worker” and was able to continue working for them a second year. Her advice to students is “to work your hardest at any job you’re given and to go out of your way to get what you want.”